

**From:** [Phil North](#)  
**To:** [Cara Steiner-Riley](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: FYI - two upcoming briefings on Bristol Bay at EPA HQ  
**Date:** 01/28/2011 11:56 AM

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"To protect your rivers, protect your mountains."

----- Forwarded by Phil North/R10/USEPA/US on 01/28/2011 10:56 AM -----

From: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US  
To: Patricia McGrath/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Brian Frazer/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, David Evans/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Szerlog/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 01/27/2011 03:32 PM  
Subject: Re: FYI - two upcoming briefings on Bristol Bay at EPA HQ

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Patty:

Thanks for your email. I agree with you that the Region is the best source for the current science regarding potential impacts from a mine in BB. However, TU requested this briefing and it is the policy of OWOW to do our best to honor all such meeting requests.

There will be many opportunities to provide follow-up from this briefing and we look forward to coordinating with you, Phil and the rest of R10 BB team on the tough issues ahead.

It was a very interesting briefing and we would definitely like an opportunity to get your perspective on the talk given by Ann Maest. I sent all the powerpoints to Michael Szerlog and Phil. Perhaps after looking this one over we could have some further discussion with you regarding the Maest talk in particular.

Thanks, Palmer

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Palmer Hough, Environmental Scientist  
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Wetlands Division  
U.S. EPA Headquarters (MC 4502T)  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
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▼ Patricia McGrath---01/26/2011 07:45:49 PM---Palmer - Thanks for including the Region in this. Unfortunately I will not be able to participate i

From: Patricia McGrath/R10/USEPA/US  
To: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Brian Frazer/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, David Evans/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 01/26/2011 07:45 PM  
Subject: Re: FYI - two upcoming briefings on Bristol Bay at EPA HQ

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Palmer -

Thanks for including the Region in this. Unfortunately I will not be able to participate in the meeting tomorrow. However, let me know if Denise or others would like a follow-up conversation after the TU meeting. I briefed her on mining in relation to the proposed Fill Rule and WTSE about a year ago and really appreciated her interest in the topic. The Region (as opposed to TU) is the best source for the current science regarding potential impacts from a mine in Bristol Bay. In addition, you should be aware that there is currently no mine proposal in Bristol Bay, although there is truly a huge ore resource out there. However, there are a lot of questions regarding how big the mine might be, the characteristics of the waste, how they might be disposed, how the mine would be closed, etc. You are probably well aware (as is Brian from his visit to Alaska!) that there are ways to do it right and do it wrong. Phil is the best source of information about the value of the BB watershed. I am the best source of information about the potential Pebble Mine and potential mine impacts. So let us know if you have follow-up questions.

- Patty

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▼ Palmer Hough---01/26/2011 08:56:27 AM---Bristol Bay Team: FYI, there are two upcoming briefings on BB here in DC for OWOW Director Denise Ke

From: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US

To: Bill Dunbar/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Cara Steiner-Riley/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Dave Athons/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, David Allnutt/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Gary Sonnevil/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Heather Dean/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Heidi Karp/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Julia McCarthy/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Marianne Holsman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Mary Thiesing/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Szerlog/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Patricia McGrath/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Rachel Fertik/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
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Date: 01/26/2011 08:56 AM  
Subject: FYI - two upcoming briefings on Bristol Bay at EPA HQ

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Bristol Bay Team:

FYI, there are two upcoming briefings on BB here in DC for OWOW Director Denise Keehner.

1) The first is set for 1/27 from 2-4 pm ET. It was organized at the request of TU and will include a team of scientists who plan to present current science regarding potential impacts of large-scale mining on the BB.

2) The second will likely be 2/15,16 or 17 (I will let you know as soon as it has been set). It is being organized at the request of BBNA as a follow-up to their request that EPA initiate an advance 404(c) action in BB. See 1/19 briefing request below.

For both of these briefings, a call in line has been set up to allow interested folks from R10 to participate. **The call in number is 866-299-3188, code 202-566-1374.**

The 1/27 briefing will have a number of powerpoints. I will forward those powerpoints to the team in advance of the call.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Palmer

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### **Background on 1/27 OWOW Bristol Bay Briefing from Scientists (provided by TU)**

**Who:** I will be traveling to DC with a team of scientists that are sharing current science about the potential impacts on Bristol Bay from the proposed Pebble mine as well as The Nature Conservancy's recently published: An Assessment of Ecological Risk to Wild Salmon Systems from Large-scale Mining in the Nushagak and Kvichak Watersheds of the Bristol Bay Basin. The team includes a number of experts in their fields including Dr. Ann Maest, Dr. David Chambers, and Dr. Tom Quinn. Bios are listed below.

**Why:** The USEPA is currently considering requests from tribes, commercial fishermen, native corporations and sportsmen for a preemptive Clean Water Act 404c action in Bristol Bay Alaska. Bristol Bay is home to the largest wild salmon fishery on the planet and is currently threatened by the proposed Pebble mine. If developed, Pebble would be the largest open pit mine in North America. While the decision to invoke 404c in Bristol Bay will rest solely with the EPA, a number of other federal agencies manage resources in this area and will have the opportunity to bring their expertise and knowledge to the table. We wish to begin a dialog with these agencies about the resources at risk and the existing science on the subject.

**When:** January 27th and 28th 2011.

**Biographies:**

Ann S. Maest: Ann is an aqueous geochemist with expertise in the fate and transport of natural and anthropogenic contaminants in groundwaters, surface waters, and sediments. The results of Dr. Maest's research have been published in books and in peer-reviewed journals, including *Applied Geochemistry*, *Chemical Geology*, *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, and *Environmental Science and Technology*. Formerly, Dr. Maest was an independent environmental consultant specializing in water quality impacts of hard rock mining, transport of toxics in groundwater and surface waters, and drinking water quality.

Thomas Quinn: Dr. Thomas Quinn, a Professor at the University of Washington in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, his research has focused on salmon ecology, evolution and conservation. Dr. Quinn has done research in B.C. in the past and is currently working on sockeye salmon stocks in western Alaska, and salmon and trout in Puget Sound. He has published over 200 scientific articles on salmon and trout.

David Chambers: David Chambers has 35 years of experience in mineral exploration and development – 15 years of technical and management experience in the mineral exploration industry, and for the past 20 years he has served as an advisor on the environmental effects of mining projects both nationally and internationally. He has Professional Engineering Degree in Physics from the Colorado School of Mines, a Master of Science Degree in Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and is a registered professional geophysicist in California. Dr. Chambers received his Ph.D. in Environmental Planning from Berkeley where his doctoral dissertation analyzed the U.S. Forest Service's efforts to plan for and manage minerals on the National Forests.

Other participants include: David Albert - Conservation Science Director TNC Alaska, Shoren Brown - Alaska Policy Director Trout Unlimited, Sarah O'Neil - fisheries biologist.

----- Forwarded by Darren Reid/DC/USEPA/US on 01/20/2011 09:18 AM -----

From: Karl Ohls <kohls@northstargrp.com>  
To: Michael Stahl/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Darren Reid/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Veronica Slajer <vaslajer@northstargrp.com>, Amy Sparck Dobmeier <amy@northstargrp.com>, JFA Associate <jfa-assoc@jackferguson.com>  
Date: 01/19/2011 05:39 PM  
Subject: Bristol Bay Native Assn appointment request

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Mr. Michael Stahl  
Acting Director  
American Indian Environmental Office, EPA

Mr. Darren Reid  
Scheduler  
Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds

Mr. Stahl and Mr. Reid,

I am helping the Bristol Bay Native Association in Alaska set up an appointment schedule for a mid-February, 2011 visit to Washington, D.C. While in DC, the BBNA delegation would like to meet with the appropriate officials at EPA regarding proposed mining projects in the Bristol Bay region and the regulation of water quality from those projects. From my research, I understand that the American Indian Environmental Office and the Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds would have the most knowledge about these subjects.

Specifically, on behalf of BBNA, I would like to request an appointment with you, Mr. Stahl, or your designee, and, Mr. Reid, with Acting Director Denise Keehner or her designee at a convenient time on either Feb. 15, 16 or 17. Please let me know if your offices would be the most appropriate ones to meet with, or if you would recommend that other people at EPA also be contacted. Any assistance you could offer in scheduling appointments for the BBNA representatives to discuss mining & water quality issues would be most appreciated.

Below, I have listed the names and affiliations of the BBNA delegation members who will be traveling to DC. Given its size, the group will break into smaller teams for purposes of attending the appointments.

Just for background information, BBNA is a non-profit tribal consortium organized to provide a variety of educational, social, economic and related services to the Native people and communities of Alaska's Bristol Bay region. Made up of 31 recognized tribes, BBNA's mission is to maintain and promote a strong regional organization that serves as a unified voice for the region's indigenous population. Commercial and subsistence fishing are the region's most important sources of income and sustenance, and are important culturally to all of the residents. The Bristol Bay watershed produces the one of the world's largest wild salmon runs.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information. Thank you for your consideration of this request!

Karl Ohls  
North Star Group  
202-544-6355 office  
202-431-2938 cell

BBNA Executive Committee participants in WDC appointments: -

Fred "Ted" Angasan, Chairman (South Naknek Village Council)  
Thomas Tilden, Vice Chairman (Curyung Tribal Council)  
Robert Heyano, Secretary (Ekuk Village Council)  
Margie Nelson, Treasurer (New Koliganek Village Council)  
Helen Gregorio, Member (Togiak Traditional Council)  
Harvey Anelon, Member (Iliamna Village Council)  
Dennis Andrew, Member (New Stuyahok Village Council)  
Harry Wassily Sr., Member (Clarks Point Village Council)  
Victor Seybert, Member (Pilot Point Village Council)  
Patrick Kosbruk, Member (Perryville Village Council)  
Ralph Andersen, President & Chief Executive Officer, BBNA  
Bruce Baltar, General Counsel, BBNA  
Amy Sparck Dobmeier, Consultant, North Star Group

